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BOOK REVIEWS

History of the Discovery and Conquest of Costa Rica. By Ricardo Fernandez Guardia. Translated by Harry Weston Van Dyke. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1914.

This work is a valuable addition to the literature we possess dealing with the conquest of America by the Spaniards. Utilizing the manuscript of Señor Fernandez Guardia, the Translator who has devoted himself to special studies on Spanish America, has entered upon his task thoroughly equipped, and in a spirit sympathetic to the country that in two centuries "settled and christianized a world larger than Europe." He has added a new instructive chapter to the history of Spanish Colonization, and brought to light names and facts almost unknown. Until a period comparatively recent, popular knowledge of Spanish conquests in America among English-speaking peoples, was limited to such standard works as the Conquest of Mexico and the Conquest of Peru, of Prescott. Of other labors of the Spaniards in Central and South America, we knew comparatively little. As for Costa Rica, "as late as thirty years ago the names even of the first Conquistadores were still unknown, and the events of the country's past were shrouded in darkness."

Although writer after writer has drawn upon the archives of the Indies in Seville, immense historical treasures still lie buried in that storehouse of documents dealing with the New World. Don Leon Fernandez, father of the author of the present work, and Don Manuel M. de Peralta have extracted many and valuable records dealing with the history of Central America from these archives, papers that our author has extensively used and cited in his book. Not content, however, with the labors of others, Señor Fernandez Guardia has himself delved deeply into this ocean of information, making the Seville archives the principal source of his material.

The result of these labors is the present work which, if somewhat archaic, owing to the fact that the author and translator have frequently used the style of the past, is, nevertheless, of great value to the historian, and of considerable interest to the general public. Lacking the literary charm of a Prescott and the thrilling episodes of the Conquest of Mexico and Peru, it is apt to grow somewhat monotonous by the constant attempts and failures of the Conquistadores, in whose exploits there is naturally much similarity. This, however, is amply

counterbalanced by the new information one derives from the study of a history, thus far, but little known. One comes in contact with personalities that had vanished, but that recent researches have resurrected from the tomb of oblivion. If the unfortunate scenes of cruelty and bloodshed that have frequently stained the annals of Spanish Conquest in America are met with here as elsewhere, there are also recorded deeds of valor, of heroism and of indomitable perseverance on the part of those men who braved hunger and thirst, the terrors of the American wilderness and death in the pursuit of their goal. Virtue too shines conspicuously in the lives of some who stand forth in bold relief and in striking contrast to others. Not the least valuable portion of the work is that dealing with the missionary labors of the Franciscans and other devoted priests, for whose zeal the author evinces marked sympathy.

In the first chapter, we are enabled to form an idea of what Pre-Columbian Costa Rica must have been, and an interesting study in ethnology is afforded us. The history proper deals with each expedition chronologically, with relations of peace and war between Spaniards and Indians, with the inroads of the Buccaneers, and with the labors of the missionaries. It covers the whole period of Spanish Colonization, and ends with the first years of the nineteenth century.

We congratulate and thank the author for the result of his investigation, and the translator for having rendered them accessible to English readers.

New England and New France, Contrasts and Parallels in Colonial History. By James Douglas; with 45 illustrations and maps. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York and London, 1913, pp. x + 560.

This work does not present a continuous and systematic history of New England and New France, but is made up, as the sub-title suggests, of numerous disconnected studies on colonial life. The citation of its chapter-headings will perhaps give, in the briefest and most satisfactory manner, a specific idea of its contents. They are as follows: I. Motives and Methods of North American Colonization; II. A Glimpse of the Past Reflected in the Present; III. Some of the Sources of the History of New France; IV. On Some of the Contemporaneous Documents Available for the Colonial History of New England; V. The Dawn of French Colonial History in North America; VI. Canada under the Civil and Ecclesiastical Misrule of France, to the Close of the Century; VII. A Sequel to the History of New France; VIII. The Founding of Plymouth Colony, as told by Governor Bradford; IX. Laying